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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 41 Berkeley, California, November, 1959 Number 11

AUGUST TRIP TO FARALLON ISLANDS

At 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 29, the Privateer II left the Berkeley Yacht Harbor with 10 eager Audubon members on board. More passengers were picked up in San Francisco, bringing the total to 17. The route was straight to the Farallons, then southwest for about 4 miles, then back to the harbor.

Outstanding observations were very good views of a Wilson's Petrel (there are only two California collection records), countless thousands of Sooty Shearwaters, a dozen Fork-tailed Petrels and a dozen Tufted Puffins, and 4 Pomarine Jaegers.

The following 32 species were seen on the trip: Black-footed Albatross; Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwater; Fork-tailed, Wilson's, and Ashy Petrel; Brown Pelican; Double-crested, Brandt's, and Pelagic Cormorant; Surf Scoter; Black Oyster-catcher; Surfbird; Ruddy and Black Turnstone; Wandering Tattler; Least Sandpiper; Short-billed Dowitcher; Red and Northern Phalarope; Pomarine Jaeger; Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew, Bonaparte's and Heermann's Gull; Forster's Tern; Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Tufted Puffin. RICHARD STALLCUP, *Leader and Historian*

SEPTEMBER TRIP TO GOLDEN GATE PARK AND THE CLIFF HOUSE

On Saturday, September 12, about 25 members and guests enjoyed a mild, clear day of birding at the Chain of Lakes and the Arboretum in Golden Gate Park and at the Cliff House. Although we had no unusual species for this time of year, we saw about 25 warblers, which is rather high.

The following 51 species were observed: Pied-billed Grebe; Brown Pelican; Brandt's Cormorant; Green Heron; Mallard and Shoveler Duck; American Widgeon; Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; American Coot; Killdeer; Surfbird; Black Turnstone; Sanderling; Northern Phalarope; Glaucous-winged, Western, California, and Heermann's Gull; Caspian Tern; Common Murre; Mourning Dove; Anna's and Allen's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Downy Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Scrub Jay; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Common Bushtit; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Robin; Hutton's Vireo; Yellow, Townsend's MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warbler; Yellowthroat; House Sparrow; Brewer's Blackbird; Western Tanager; Purple and House Finch; Pine Siskin; Rufous-sided Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-crowned and Song Sparrow. FLORENCE PLYMELL, *Leader and Historian*

SEPTEMBER TRIP TO BAY FARM ISLAND

Response of the bird population to changing conditions in Alameda and on Bay Farm Island interested about 50 members and friends who met Sunday, September 27. Early comers found excellent birding in Lincoln Park before going to Frontage Road near San Leandro Bay. Few terns were in the marshes, and comparatively few sandpipers. Northern Phalaropes numbered less than a half dozen.

The pond near Doolittle Road has been almost completely filled in by the Oakland city dump, and the Alameda dump has encroached extensively into what used to be Clapper Rail territory. No rails were seen, although they are known still to be at the west end of Bay Farm Island.

Tide movements have changed considerably, and in the mudflats there has grown some form of green vegetation. Black Turnstones appear to find food there and were seen in four different places. Ruddy Turnstones were seen at the west end of the Bay Farm Island and on the new South Shore in Alameda.

Perhaps the most interesting observing of the day was on the new South Shore between Park Street and the bridge. Those who stayed until the late afternoon saw Snowy Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, and Sanderlings in considerable numbers. A few Dunlins were seen. After the tide began to come in, tern activity increased and flocks of Western Sandpipers came in. These birds have established an entirely new loafing ground on dry, filled-in land to the east of the new bowling alley at the end of Park Street. The area has been sprayed to minimize the drift of sand, and no-trespassing signs are rigidly enforced. The loafing ground is on a higher level than the beach, and it is possible to get very close to the birds by going along the beach and peering over the steeply sloping boundary. A large, closely huddled flock of Black-bellied Plovers settled down early.

In all, 70 species were observed, the following in addition to those mentioned above: Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Brown Pelican; Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, and Ruddy Duck; Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawk; American Coot; Killdeer; Long-billed Curlew and Whimbrel; Willet; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Knot; Least Sandpiper; Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; American Avocet; Glaucous-winged (1), Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, and Mew (6) Gulls; Forster's, Common, and Caspian (1) Tern; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Horned Lark (1); Scrub Jay; Plain Titmouse; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Mockingbird; Robin; Water Pipit (1); Loggerhead Shrike; Warbling Vireo; Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's Warbler; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbird; Western Tanager; House Finch; Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrow.

ELSIE ROEMER, *Leader and Historian*

NOVEMBER MEETING

The 501st regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held Thursday, November 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary Natural Science Center on Lake Merritt in Oakland, near the duck feeding area. Our speaker will

be Dr. Herbert Mason, Professor of Botany and Director of the Herbarium at UC. He will show pictures and tell us about the SWAMP LAKE conservation project in the Hetch-Hetchy country. Guests are welcome.

Note: A no-host dinner preceding the meeting will be held at Conover's Restaurant, Perkins and Grand Ave., six o'clock. Everyone welcome.

BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL FUND

A lasting gift of remembrance was made to the Sanctuary and Memorial Fund in memory of Mr. Charles C. Rueger by his daughter, Miss Emma L. Rueger.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Miss Mary Louise Ainsworth and Mrs. George Davis; from Oakland, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Carroll and Mr. Norman Fitzwater; from Piedmont, Miss Patricia A. Tiggard; from San Francisco, Mrs. Rose K. Lewis; and from Santa Rosa, Miss Bernice Parish.

AGNES OCZKEWECZ, *Membership Chairman*

GARDEN PARTY HONORS JOHN BAKER

The Annual September Garden Party at the home of Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds was a tremendous success with about 200 in attendance. The Audubon Camp Scholarship Funds, for which the affair was given, was augmented greatly. Caterers served a delicious barbecued chicken dinner while our favorite accordionist wandered among the tables. Three teachers, recipients of last year's scholarships, told of the gratifying experiences at Norden.

The guest of honor was Mr. John H. Baker, president of the Society for 34 years, now retiring. A resolution of appreciation from our Branch was read, after which Dr. Reynolds made a presentation of the token of our esteem, a gold self-winding watch. Dr. Reynolds described Mr. Baker affectionately as a RARE BIRD, enumerating his many outstanding qualities and achievements. Mr. Baker responded graciously and then spoke on the Audubon Program in California and thanked the many who have helped make it so successful.

Just before closing, a most amusing film about the Gooney Birds of Wake Island was shown. It was a gay ending for a most delightful evening. Many thanks to Eric and Laurel, and to Louise Muhler, the lovely and capable Garden Party Chairman and her many helpers.

BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION COUNCIL

RECREATION PRESSURES ON CALIFORNIA'S LANDS AND WATERS is the theme of the California Conservation Council's Conference which will be held on Nov. 5th and 6th at the Sacramento Inn, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento (North Sac. Freeway). (Note change from Berkeley). The Women's meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon and the General meeting all day Friday. Everyone is urged to attend.

Note: Congratulations to Pearl Chase, founder and Executive VP, who was recently awarded the degree of Doctor of Humanities at U.C., Santa Barbara, in recognition of her many accomplishments for the cause of Conservation.

FIELD TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

On Saturday and Sunday, November 7-8 to Willows and Gridley Refuges. Please check the notice in the October Gull for information about routes, accomodations and meeting places. Be sure to make reservations before going up if you wish to stay overnight. Leader, Harry Adamson, ATlantic 3-2164.

On Saturday, November 14, to Orinda and San Pablo Reservoirs. Large numbers of ducks, geese and shorebirds winter here because of protection afforded by "No Trespassing" regulations. The oak and shrub covered slopes are good habitat for many land birds. A side trip may be made up the Bear Creek Road for warblers. Meet at 9 a.m. in front of the Orinda Theatre near Orinda crossroads. Leader, Peter Veitch, CL. 4-2419.

On Saturday, November 28, to Conn Lake in Napa County. Since 1951 this area has been on our November or December scheduled trips. Each year this trip has resulted in some unusual birding experiences. About 400 Wood Ducks were seen in 1957. Usually a good number of Swans are seen. Meet at the stone bridge about one mile northeast of Napa, at 9:15 a.m. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch and interested friends. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO. 8-7534

On Sunday, November 29, the Conn Lake trip will be duplicated. This is being done to split the group for better birding. Leader, John Ralph, LA. 5-0373

HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS: Arnold Small reported a Bar-headed Goose on Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge. Elegant Terns near the Bay Bridge toll plaza. Hans Meinhardt reported seeing a Brown Thrasher in Pt. Reyes area.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.50 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042